

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An electro-cautery probe not designed for penetrating the skin prior to electro-cauterization and for attachment to and use with a cauterization device to cut and/or cauterize tissue of a patient in surgery, the electro-cautery probe having at least a surface of the electro-cautery probe which contacts a patient's tissue to be cut and/or cauterized coated with a coating comprising an amphiphilic lipid.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Withdrawn) A cauterization device comprising a main body having a gripping handle and an insulator coupled to the gripping handle,  
an electro-cautery probe provided within the insulator and having a tip distal the gripping handle and protruding out from the insulator, and

a dispensing mechanism configured to lubricate the tip of the electro-cautery probe with a coating, the dispensing mechanism being coupled to the main body and including a channel positioned along the insulator of the main body and an actuator coupled to a proximal end of the channel to be positioned near the gripping handle of the main body.

19. (Withdrawn) The cauterization device of claim 18, wherein the actuator includes a receptacle coupled to the insulator of the main body and wherein the receptacle defines a cavity configured to receive the coating therein.

20. (Withdrawn) The cauterization device of claim 19, wherein the actuator includes a plunger having a sealed stopper end positioned within the cavity of the receptacle and a handle coupled to the plunger for a user to grip, and further wherein the plunger is movable back and forth within the cavity relative to the receptacle in order to move the coating within the receptacle into the insulator and onto the tip of the electro-cautery probe.

21. (Withdrawn) The cauterization device of claim 18, wherein the actuator includes a compressible bulb.

22. - 40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The electro-cautery probe of claim 16, wherein the coating comprises an amphiphilic phospholipid.

42. (Previously Presented) The electro-cautery probe of claim 16, wherein the coating comprises a glycerol-based lipid.

43. (Previously Presented) The electro-cautery probe of claim 16, wherein the coating comprises a glycerol-based phospholipid.

44. (Previously Presented) The electro-cautery probe of claim 16, wherein the coating comprises a lecithin.

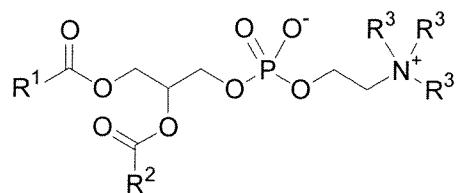
45. (Previously Presented) The electro-cautery probe of claim 44, wherein the lecithin is a non-allergenic lecithin.

46. (Previously Presented) The electro-cautery probe of claim 44, wherein the lecithin is of 8090 viscosity.

47. (Previously Presented) The electro-cautery probe of claim 44, wherein the lecithin is of 12000 viscosity.

48. (Previously Presented) The electro-cautery probe of claim 44, wherein the lecithin is a lecithin from which a soy protein component is removed to make the coating non-allergenic.

49. (Previously Presented) The electro-cautery probe of claim 44, wherein the release coating comprises a compound having the formula:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  are each independently selected from alkyl and alkenyl, each of which may be optionally substituted; and  $\text{R}^3$  is in each instance independently selected from  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$  alkyl.

50. (New) A cauterization device comprising an electro-cautery probe tip not designed for penetrating the skin prior to electro-cauterization and having a surface which contacts a patient's tissue to be cauterized, and liquid means for preventing the patient's tissue from sticking to the electro-cautery probe tip.

51. (New) The cauterization device of claim 50, wherein the liquid means includes a viscous liquid.

52. (New) The cauterization device of claim 50, wherein the liquid means for preventing the patient's tissue from sticking to the electro-cautery probe tip includes a coating comprising an amphiphilic lipid.

53. (New) The cauterization device of claim 50, wherein the liquid means for preventing the patient's tissue from sticking to the electro-cautery probe tip includes means for continually dispensing the coating onto the electro-cautery probe tip during cauterization.

54. (New) The cauterization device of claim 50, wherein the liquid means for preventing the patient's tissue from sticking to the electro-cautery probe tip includes means for dispensing the coating onto the electro-cautery probe tip during cauterization as needed without the need to stop the cauterization procedure and without removing the probe tip from the patient.